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QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Note verbale dated 5 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text, in English, of a statement of the Portuguese Government on East Timor, issued in Lisbon on 27 May 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly under item 103, entitled "Question of East Timor", as listed in the preliminary list of items to be included in the provisional agenda, dated 18 February 1992.

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

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Annex

THE TRIAL AND SENTENCING OF EAST TIMORESE IN JAKARTA AND DILI

The Portuguese Government draws the attention of the international community to the trials of East Timorese arrested during the Santa Cruz massacre, in November 1991. These trials are taking place without the minimum requirements of impartiality and legal defence. Two of the defendants have already been sentenced with heavy prison terms. There is a sharp contrast between the sentencing of the victims - who have been accused of engaging in non-violent political activity in favour of the internationally recognized rights of the East Timorese people - and the fact that there was no significant punishment at all for the officers responsible for the terrible violence.

Indonesia is accused of bad faith as it has acted in flagrant violation of the provisions of the declaration adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March 1992, which it had accepted and subscribed to. In this, Indonesia has shown an arrogant disrespect for the universal condemnation that followed the massacre.